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northerly, and, at setting, he is found to have receded from the meridian, along the line Tt , the arch, vc , being the difference between his declination at rising and his declination at setting. It is plain, on simple inspection, that the angle, EPt , is greater than the angle EPv , which is equal to the angle, EPc , and, therefore, that as the earth turns on its axis with a uniform velocity, any point upon its surface must take a longer time in moving through the greater angle. Hence it follows that at no period of the year is your correspondent's rule for finding the length of the day and night correct. It is, however, a close approximation when the sun, in either solstice, makes but little variation of declination in a day.

The change of declination is not the only cause of your correspondent's being puzzled. It also proceeds from the difference between apparent, solar, and mean time.—The time set down in recent almanacs is of the latter description, and is that shown by a well regulated clock, at sunrise and sunset. This difference of time amounts on the given day to about 15M. 54s., to be added to apparent time, and if this be taken from the hours set down in the almanac, you have 7H. 54M. 6s. for sunrise, and 4H. 26M. 6s. for sunset, which doubled give 15H. 8M. 12s., and 8H. 52M. 12s., the sum of which is 24H. 0M. 24s. The excess of 24s. arises from the sun's motion in the ecliptic, and the obliquity of the ecliptic not being uniform during the twenty-four hours. The sun's declination during the latter portion of the day on the first of February increases nearly at the rate of one second per hour more than it does in the early part of the same day, which occasions the time from the sun's passing the meridian until his setting, to be longer than the time between his rising and culmination. I hope I have made myself intelligible to J. A., and am, Sir, your well-wisher, B.

WHEN MY OLD CAP WAS NEW—OR IRELAND FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Since this old cap was new,
Now fifty-two long years;
(It was new at the review
Of the Dublin volunteers);
There have been brought to pass
With us a change or two,
They're sorely altered times, alas!
Since this old cap was new.

Our parliament did sit
Then in our native land,
What good came of the loss of it
I cannot understand;
Although full plain I see,
That changes not a few
Have fallen on the country
Since this old cap was new.

They are very worthy fellows
(And much I'd be distressed
To think them else,) who tell us
That all is for the best;
Though full as ill inclined,
Now the bargain's closed, to rue,
Yet I can't but call the times to mind
When this old cap was new.

What rights we wanted then
Were asked for above board,
By a hundred thousand gentlemen,
And rendered at the word;
'Twas thus in fair day-light,
With all the world to view,
We claimed, and gained our right
When this old cap was new!

But patriots now a days,
And state reformers, when
A starving people's cry they raise,
Turn out like trenchermen,
To guzzle o'er their plans:
Oh, who'd have thought it true,
That men would prate o'er coffee-cans,
When this old cap was new.

Spouting and swilling slop
The spooneys pass the day;
Who goeth to the eating-shop
For what he gets must pay;
Ah! we'd have done the work,
If it had been to do,
With other tool than spoon or fork
When this old cap was new.

On the night reforms begun
By ruffian gangs, that go
A murdering for fun,
And burning high and low;
And what he wants, not one
In ten could tell to you;
'Twas differently done
When this old cap was new.

The nobles of the country
Were then our neighbours near,
And 'mong us squires and gentry
Made always jolly cheer!
Ah! every night, at some one's
Or other's, was a crew
Of merry lords and commons,
When this old cap was new.

They're altered times entirely,
As plainly now appears;
Our landlord's face we barely see
Past once in seven years.
And now the man meets scorn
As his coat is green or blue;
We had no need our coats to turn,
When this old cap was new.

Good counsel to propose
I have but little skill;
Yet ere a vain lament I close,
In humble trust, I will
Beseech for all his aid,
Who knows what all should do;
And pray, as I have often prayed,
When this old cap was new.

God bless that honest gentleman
And noble prince, the king;
And grant him long the grace to plan
The best in every thing;
And give unto his ministry
As kindly hearts and true;
And then the days again will be
When this old cap was new.

Belfast, September.

E. N. M.

My honest, fine old fellow,
Though I might be your son's son,
Yet will I venture to advise;
Mourn not what's past and gone;
But for the blessings that are left,
Stand the stouter up and bolder;
Or you'll have nothing left at all
Ere your old cap be much older.

Dublin, November.

A. S.

THE RIGHT OF PRECEDENCE.

The wives of the two presidents of the court of justice and revenue at Cleves, were continually disputing about their respective ranks; and the lady of the president of the court of justice insisted that, in all public places, she was entitled to a rank superior to the other. This provoked her rival so much that she wrote to the king, Frederick the Great, and prayed that he would be graciously pleased to decide which of the two ladies had a right to go first. The king wrote back to her the following answer:

"The greatest fool goes first."

"FREDERICK."

Was this decision remembered it would prevent many angry disputes on the same subject, which seems a never ending source of heart-burnings, &c.